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27.— *Woman's Rights under the Law. In Three Lectures, delivered in Boston, January, 1861.* By CAROLINE H. DALL, Author of "Woman's Right to Labor," "Historical Pictures Retouched," &c., &c. Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1861. 16mo. pp. 164.

THESE Lectures are entitled, respectively, "The Oriental Estimate and the French Law," "The English Common Law," and "The United States Law, and Some Thoughts on Human Rights." They are chiefly historical, and the writer's aim is to illustrate the civil disabilities and privations to which woman has been subject in time past, to show how little the improved legislation of the present day has done for her, and to appeal to the general conscience in behalf of her entire emancipation from pupilage and bondage. The book will be read by the friends, and ought to be read by the opposers, of the cause of which Mrs. Dall is a foremost advocate; for it consists mainly of facts, that is, of statutes, decisions, and legal *dicta*, which are quoted in their very words, and with references to the authorities whence they are taken. We are not among those who desire to see women on the bench, in the senate, or at the hustings; yet we contend that their plea should not be dismissed unheard. With reference to property, the English common law certainly produces many hard cases for the wife; but the entire separation as to pecuniary interests between husband and wife, we can easily conceive, might lead to much greater mischief in marring the harmony of families, and introducing potent elements of strife into the household. This, however, must be admitted:— Legislation might in many cases interpose for the protection of wives, either by express statute, (as has already been done in many of the States of our Union,) or by investing the proper tribunals with an extensive equity jurisdiction, by which we mean, not equity in the technical sense, but the power of doing right where the letter of the law would do wrong. At any rate, the subject merits careful consideration, and we commend Mrs. Dall's book as an able and thorough statement of the case on one side, which claims respectful heed, and by no means merits being dismissed with a sneer.

28.— *First Principles of Ethics. Designed as a Basis for Instruction in Ethical Science in Schools and Colleges.* By J. T. CHAMPLIN, President of Waterville College. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee, & Co. 1861. 12mo. pp. 204.

WE took this book in hand, expecting that it would meet our approval, but without the thought that it was other than an addition to the number of what the author calls "the many excellent treatises on

that subject already in existence." We find, however, that it stands by itself, as to what it omits, as to the singleness of its aim, and as to the severe, yet never obscure, conciseness of its statements and arguments. Most treatises on moral philosophy combine the abstract and the concrete, principles and their application, the science and the art of virtue. But particular forms of duty or modes of conduct are not subjects for scientific treatment. The same principle may have two opposite practical expressions, according as more or fewer of the variable elements in the condition of humanity are taken into the account. Then, too, a narrow, one-sided, or false application of a principle, especially if it be dogmatically stated, and if strong stress be laid upon it, may react in producing scepticism or repugnancy toward the principle itself. Dr. Champlin confines himself to the *science* of morals. He agrees with Price and with the author of "Intuitive Morals" in seeking the basis of right and the ground of obligation "in the nature of things." He regards conscience as the faculty which infallibly perceives the right, its errors not being errors of judgment, but resulting from its limited cognizance of the materials for a sound judgment. He deduces the freedom of the will from the conscious capacity of action. In these and their cognate principles, with the strictly scientific inferences that flow from them, he comprehends the entire science of morals, of which he gives in a "Supplement" a compendious history. The arrangement is simple and lucid; the style equally so. It is precisely the book needed for our high schools, and for an introductory text-book in our colleges. We wish that the author would follow it by a more extended work, comprising the analysis and scientific criticism of the systems barely mentioned in his Supplement. We know of no existing treatise with which, with a method corresponding to that of the book before us, he might not compete on advantageous ground.

29.—*Vermont Quarterly Gazetteer. A Historical Magazine, embracing a Digest of the History of each Town, Civil, Educational, Religious, Geological, and Literary.* Edited by ABBY MARIA HEMENWAY, compiler of "The Poets and Poetry of Vermont." No. I. July 4, 1860. *Addison County.*—No. II. October, 1861. *Bennington County.* Ludlow. 8vo. pp. 254.

THE plan on which this work is begun will insure a series of local histories of Vermont, of peculiar minuteness, fidelity, and interest. Each number is to contain the history of the towns in a single county. Each town history is written by some person familiar with the geography, institutions, traditions, and present condition of the town. The widest